

JONAH 1:1-9

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

4 The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.

5 Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down, and fallen sound asleep.

6 So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."

7 Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

8 Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

9 And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

Life is not always plain sailing! Why not?

Discover for yourself

1. **Read Jonah 1:1-9** and underline Jonah, including all pronouns that refer to him e.g. he, him, you, your, I
2. **Look at what you marked:** What happened to Jonah? Why?
3. **Think about:** Have u ever been in a storm where you were at fault? What was the final outcome?
4. **Mark** the sailors with a box including all synonyms and pronouns e.g. as: they, them, we, us, his, each man, mate etc
5. **Look at what you marked:** What happened to them? Why? What did they do about it?
6. **Think about:** Can you identify with, the sailors? Why?
7. **Mark** Lord with a triangle including all synonyms and pronouns that refer to Him e.g. God, I, Me.
8. **Look at what you marked:** What did God do? Why?
9. **Think about:** What was different between the gods of the sailors and Jonah's God? Why does that matter?
10. **What can you learn from this study?**

Look in the table of content of your Bible for the book of "Jonah" and read these 4 short chapters to learn how to deal with some of life's toughest storms. Find out how peace comes for offenders, victims, enemies and yourself.

Word explanation:

Calamity: disaster

Cargo: load

Cast lots: draw the "short straw"

*"The lot is cast into the lap; but its every decision is from the Lord."
Proverbs 16:33*